

**Page Denied**

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

Insert for the record page 121, DCI Worldwide Briefing to the SASC, 1 Feb 82

Question: Mr. Casey, what is the intelligence community's view of the Soviet level of effort and intentions with regard to developing and deploying space-based laser systems? How soon are they likely to be able to field a prototype system and for what purpose do you think they would design a space-based laser--i.e., anti-satellite, anti-aircraft, or anti-ballistic missile defense?

Answer:

There is evidence of a Soviet project to develop a space-based laser weapon that we believe may have an antisatellite application. Such a system would have significant advantages over the orbital interceptor in that it would have multishot and long-range capabilities, perhaps on the order of 1,000 kilometers between weapon and target. It is also likely to have a greater capacity to overcome defensive measures, such as maneuvering and decoy deployment. Development of such a complicated satellite is technically difficult, and we are uncertain as to the approach the Soviets will take. They could forego space tests with a smaller system and launch a 5-megawatt system, although this would be technically risky. They could have a prototype system for antisatellite testing by the late 1980s. They might first launch a laser system of somewhat lower power--several hundred kilowatts--but not before the mid-1980s. Another possible development program would initially call for an in-space feasibility demonstration using an even lower power laser--in the approximate range of 25 to 75 kilowatts--as a test bed. If such a test bed could fit into an existing spacecraft, it might be launched in the early-to-middle 1980s. A future space-based laser ABM weapon could conceivably be developed, but a prototype for such a system probably would not appear before the 1990's.

FEB 25 1982

Insert for the record, page 121, DCI Worldwide Briefing to the SASC, 1 Feb 82

Question: Mr. Casey, is there any evidence that the Soviet Union is purposefully delaying the flight testing of their long-anticipated fifth generation ICBM force? If so, for what reason do we think they are doing so, awaiting some disposition of the START/SALT process, not wishing to disrupt the image they are projecting to Europe in their propaganda, or for technical reasons?

Answer:

There is no reason to believe that the Soviets have imposed a delay on the flight-testing of their ICBMs now under development. Any delays that may have occurred to date probably have been due to technical reasons. This may have been the case for their medium-sized solid-propellant ICBM, which has been in development for several years; however, flight-testing of this system appears imminent. We also expect them to begin testing a smaller solid-propellant ICBM at any time.